was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended. A patent is normally challenged by the person (s) whose interests are affected/jeopardised.

Decrease in export of basmati rice, tea and coffee

1870. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a gradual decrease in export of basmati rice, tea and coffee every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons why these items are losing their market share internationally?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of exports of basmati rice, tea and coffee during the last three years are as under:—

Unit: Qty:MT
(Value: Rs. Crores)

Year	Basmati Rice		Tea		Coffee	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1999-2000	638,379	1,780.34	1,79,310	1,784,67	1,90,112	1,434,85
2000-01	8,51,724	2,165,96	2,02,365	1,976,41	1,84,899	1,184,87
2001-02	6,67,069	1,842,77	1,80,102	1,719,22	1,76,262	1,094,92
2002-03 (Apr.-Oct, 2002)	3,79,937	1,049,22	1,17,298	1,040,70	1,18,708	597.19

(Source: DGCI and Calcutta)

Exports, being a function of various factors, induding market forces do fluctuate from year to year.